Dumping of Wastes by Ship Breaking Industry

5074. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that about 67 percent of ship breaking takes place in India;

(b) if so, whether there are necessary health, safety and environmental rules laid down for die ship breaking industry;

(c) whether it is a fact that hazardous wastes are being dumped in India by the industry; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per information received from the Ministry of Steel & Mines, India is the major ship breaking country in die Asian Region.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board has issued environmental guidelines for ship breaking. The Guidelines were circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards in December, 1997. As per diese guidelines, ship-breakers are required to formulate Environmental Management Plans for disposal of solid waste, oil and oil sludge and other wastes to prevent damage to the environment.

(c) Import of Hazardous wastes for dumping is not permitted.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance to Mahila Swasth Sangh

5075. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are extending any financial assistance for the work of the Mahila Swasth Sangh in the rural India;

(b) if so, the details of assistance given to States during the last five years; and

(c) whether Government have made any programme for members of MSS for more health care activities in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.